



The new Yolo Food Bank, 233 Harter Avenue, Woodland, coming Spring 2019



Kids Farmers Markets, serving Yolo County's lowest-income school communities



Weekly "Farm Fare" at UC Davis Solano Park Family Housing complex

"Hunger Grows Faster Than Carrots"

A Resolution For the New Year

Dear

The New Year is here, and gifts of the holiday season have given way to **a bright new future at Yolo Food Bank!**

Early this Spring, our operations and our warehouse will make the short, historic journey across the street to our new Yolo Food Bank facility, nearly four-times the size of our current location. This move will be the capstone of the years-long *End Hunger Yolo* project, and realize the dream of **a Food Bank building that's properly equipped and adequately spacious for the enormity of the hunger-relief work** that Yolo Food Bank addresses daily in Yolo County.

Recently, we received **a very personal message from Winters City Council Member Jesse Loren, detailing her own story of food insecurity.** It's excerpted below, and a reminder that hunger is an issue that has touched every part of our community:

"Pulling young families out of poverty can change the world. You don't have to buy them a house; sometimes providing an apple, an orange and a little opportunity is all they need. Nutrition is the basic human need that food banks provide. Yet people can't wrap their heads around the fact that we have so much need in California.

Recently, I was unable to find my voice while seated at a breakfast event with other elected officials, dignitaries, donors and farmers who support Yolo Food Bank. One of the guests asked questions about food scarcity in the face of the fact that one in eight lack enough food in California, and one in four lack enough food in Yolo County. He inquired, 'Can't they just get a job?' 'Why are there so many UC Davis students who don't have enough food?' I didn't speak up, but I was one of those students.

Even though I had the grades to transfer from community college to UC Irvine, I didn't have the financial resources and was only able to continue my education by utilizing assistance programs and by dint of careful budgeting. My two kids and I moved into student housing, and I took out loans for my tuition. I bought books thriftily, and often relied on obsolete editions or borrowed copies to get the schoolwork done. I worked on campus as a researcher, which I thought would give me enough money to provide for my family, but there was a busing charge for my daughter to get to school that I didn't know about and it ate up my food budget.

*I applied for food stamps and was denied. I made a lot of oatmeal, beans and rice, and did everything I could to make ends meet. I grew a garden, but ***hunger grows faster than carrots.*** There was no place at that time to access fresh fruit or vegetables on campus, but I am pleased to learn that Yolo Food Bank has recognized the need. Getting my degree allowed me to become a teacher, be financially stable, go to grad school and be a homeowner. And, all that allowed me to send my kids to college, and even run for office.*

Food can pull families out of poverty; food and opportunity are probably the only things that ever have. At the New Year, and throughout the year, I hope people understand that the reasons why people are food insecure are complicated, but providing food can make or break their futures, and their lives."

At this time of New Years resolutions, please join us in making one to fulfill the promise of Yolo Food Bank's new building, by filling it with the food that builds futures for families such as Jesse's, and more than 52,000 of your food insecure Yolo County neighbors.

Wishing you a New Year of fulfillment and gratitude,

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